

Minutes of Special Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District hosted in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and held remotely on Tuesday 10th September at 4:30 p.m. for Mary Swords, former Tipperary Town Councillor

Members Present: Cllr. John Crosse, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

Former Elected Members: Ms. Anna Tuohy Halligan, former Councillor and Mayor of the Tipperary Town Council
Mr. Denis Leahy, former Councillor of Tipperary Town
Ms. Jacqui Finnan, former Councillor of Tipperary Town
Mr. John P. Hartnett, former Councillor of Tipperary Town.
Mr. Billy Bourke, former Deputy Mayor of Tipperary Town Council
Mr. Peadar O'Donnell, former Councillor of Tipperary Town Council
Mr. Gerry Cronin, former Councillor of Tipperary Town Council.

Officials Present: Ms. Sharon Kennedy, Director of Service
Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator
Ms. Marie Lynch, Assistant Staff Officer

Mr. Martin Quinn, Peace Commissioner
Mr. Seán Swords, son of the late Mary Swords
Ms. Michelle Cunningham, daughter of the late Mary Swords
Ms. Jackie O' Flynn, daughter of the late Mary Swords
Ms. Colette O' Halloran, family friend.

Apologies: Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan
Cllr. Roger Kennedy
Cllr. Micheál Anglim
Cllr. Marie Murphy
Ms. Sinead Carr, Chief Executive
Mr. Paul Murray, former Town Clerk of Tipperary Town.
Mr. Brian Rafferty, former Councillor of Tipperary Town
Mr. Brendan Lonergan, former Councillor of Tipperary Town
Mr. John Wallace, former Councillor of Tipperary Town
Mr. David Coleman, former Town Clerk of Tipperary Town.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Crosse, opened the meeting by welcoming everybody and thanking them for their attendance at this special meeting. Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer.

The Cathaoirleach noted that everybody gathered at this special meeting were there to pay their respects and pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Mary Swords. Cllr. John Crosse stated that Mary was first elected to Tipperary Town Council in 2004 & re-elected in 2009. In 2009 was elected Mayor of Tipperary and while she held the role of Honorary Mayor of Tipperary before

being elected to Tipperary Town Council she was always great company and loved socialising with fellow Councillors.

She was dedicated in her love of Tipperary Town and was a staunch community activist and local business supporter and constantly championed those of less advantage in her town.

She devotedly cared for her husband John throughout his illness and passing and always wanted what was best for her family of which she was so proud.

While others will give context, I would like to mention in passing some highlights of her contributions.

She had the honour of according a Civic Reception to the Republic of Ireland Team Soccer Manager, Giovanni Trapattoni, when he visited Tipperary Town in August 2009.

She was a member of the Tipperary Joint Library Committee (Chairperson in 2012) and on the RAPID Area Implementation Team.

Mary was very proud of her association with the Tipperary Peace Awards Convention and especially the Kennedy family visit to Tipperary. The event was attended by no less than 13 members of the Kennedy family who had travelled from the US for their largest gathering in Ireland.

She was an avid supporter and board member of the Cannon Hayes Recreation Centre and proudly opened the Children's Playground in July 2009.

The Cathaoirleach invited those gathered to share their words of condolence and memories of Mary.

The following attendees spoke:

Cllr. Anne Marie Ryan (Shiner)

Mr. Denis Leahy, former Councillor Tipperary Town

Ms. Anna Tuohy Halligan, former Councillor and Mayor of the Tipperary Town Council

Ms. Jacqui Finnan, former Councillor of Tipperary Town

Mr. Billy Bourke, former Deputy Mayor of Tipperary Town Council

Mr. John P. Hartnett, former Councillor of Tipperary Town.

Mr. Gerry Cronin, former Councillor of the Tipperary Town UDC

Mr. Peadar O'Donnell, former Councillor of Tipperary Town Council

Mr. Sean Swords, son of the late Mary Swords

Mr. Martin Quinn, Peace Commissioner

Former Councillors Denis Leahy, Jackie Finnan, Anna Tuohy Halligan, Billy Bourke, John Hartnett, Gerry Cronin and Peadar O'Donnell paid tribute to the immense contribution that Ms Swords made to the work of the Council and to

life in Tipperary town through her involvement in several local groups including the Tipperary Joint Library Committee, the RAPID Team, Tipperary International Peace Award, Canon Hayes Recreation Centre Board, Tipperary Musical Society, The Friends of Mount Sion, St John's Famine Graveyard, the Tipperary Active Retired Association and Tipperary Mid West Radio.

Former Councillor Denis Leahy recalled how history was made in Tipperary town in 2004 when all five Councillors elected were Independents and three of the Councillors were women in 2009 including Ms Swords. All Councillors praised Ms Swords for her dedicated efforts and her friendly way of completing work with good relations always maintained with her colleagues and Council staff.

Cllr Anne Marie Ryan (Shiner) offered her condolences to the Swords family and noted that it was great that people like Mary ran for office as it was significant for other women. Cllrs Mary Hanna Hourigan, Cllr Roger Kennedy and Cllr. Marie Murphy sent apologies as they could not attend due to commitments with the Tipperary Education and Training Board.

Mary's son, Sean Swords thanked the Council and the wider community for their support in recent days while Martin Quinn recalled how he had grown up with Mary in Tipperary town and worked together in so many groups over several decades.

Ms. Sharon Kennedy, Director of Services for Tipperary Town spoke on behalf of Council Management to express condolences to the Swords and O'Dwyer families.

Signed/  Dated/ 11th of September 2024
Cathaoirleach

Signed/  Dated/ 11th of September 2024.
District Administrator

